



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: August 11, 2005

Editorial Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.

Administrative Business

Chair Harvey Klein (GSL) called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM. A motion was made to accept the July meeting minutes and the minutes were approved.

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that all ACPL's have been sent out with the exception of some the secondary NELAC laboratories.

Harvey Klein (GSL) told the committee that the SHW PT study invoice is labeled DW PT study invoice and needs to be corrected. Ms. Werner stated that the office was aware of that error.

Laura Vancho (NJ American Water) asked if Method EPA 200.9 uranium can be used for radionuclide reporting. Ms. Werner stated that she would need to refer that question to Vas Komanduri (NJDEP-OQA).

PT program: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) informed the committee that only ERA and APG have submitted the required VHS data for the current WP PT study. Ms. Werner also reported on a high failure rate for labs using the June WP study sample from APG for total suspended solids. Ms. Werner was informed after this ELAC meeting that the overall failure rate including non-New Jersey labs was 29% which may be elevated. OQA is considering how to handle the study results. Ms. Werner will also contact Towana Joseph, EPA QC Officer to notify her there may be a problem with the study. Failure letters will be sent out on September 26th for the June / July WP studies. This will be sufficient notice for labs to participate in the December makeup study.

NELAC / INELA Update: ELAC members and DEP personnel are in attendance at the NELAC / INELA conference being held in Raleigh, N.C.

NJQL's: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) reported that the NJQL pilot study is complete. Browser and operating system software information was requested from laboratories in attendance at the meeting. This information may be requested from all certified laboratories when a letter concerning the NJQL database is sent out. DEP personnel have started training on this database. The database should be ready in two months. The new DAG will be needed to finalize the NJQL rule. There will not be a comment period on the data collection portion of the rule.

Bioassay: No report

Sludge (Biosolids): Anthony Pilawski (NJDEP-BPR) told the committee that the SQAR regulations update is still in process and the expected publication date in the NJ Register is now September 17th, 2005.

Communications and OQA Website: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that the website should be updated soon with PT study information and information about the eligibility question on ACPL's for secondary NELAC laboratories.

Harvey Klein (GSL) informed the committee that he had been requested to give an ELAC update during the WEF seminar to be held on October 18th-20th in Tinton Falls.

Old Business

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water / PWTa: Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW) reporting for Karen Fell (NJDEP-BSDW) reminded member laboratories that arsenic cannot be reported for drinking water using EPA 200.7 after January 26, 2006. Systems with triennial requirements for 2005-2006 will be required to retest if the arsenic testing was performed using EPA 200.7. A letter will be sent out to water systems requesting information on any results over 5 ppb.

Ms. Bonnette reported that there will be a guidance document issued on the revisions that will be made to the paper forms so they agree with the information collected in the SDWIS and E2 databases.

The BSDW roundtable is still scheduled for October 28th, 2005.

Site Remediation: No report

New Business

Lab Certification Fee Proposal: No report

New Method Approvals: Harvey Klein (GSL) reported that the EPA has just proposed four methods for waste water testing. He listed the methods as the MFC methods for E. coli (modified M-tec) and Enterococcus (EPA 1600) and the Colilert (E.coli) and Enterolert (Enterococcus) methods. He reported that a Fecal Coliform method and a Salmonella method were proposed for sludge.

There were not any other new issues. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for 09:30 AM on September 8, 2005 – 4th Floor Conference Room.

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